

Guru Purnima message 2024

Glorious, Grand, Grace, Gratitude, and Giving

Sunday, 21st July 2024

Introducing a profound excerpt from Akkayya's diary for the 2024 Guru Purnima celebration, capturing the essence of wisdom and devotion.

चैतन्यः शाश्वतः शान्तो व्योमातीतो निरञ्जनः।
बिन्दूनादकलातीतस्तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः

caitanyah śāśvataḥ śānto vyōmātītō nirañjanaḥ |
bindunāda kalātītaḥ tasmai śrīguravē namaḥ

Meaning : Salutations to that guru who is Awareness, the eternally tranquil consciousness, changeless (beyond time), spotless and pure, who is peace, beyond space, and who is beyond the manifest and the unmanifest (Nada, Bindu, etc.).

As devoted followers, we eagerly await every word from Amma Karunamayi. Even when the Individual Blessings program extends into the late hours, often concluding around midnight, our anticipation remains undiminished. We cherish every moment of Amma's wisdom and guidance.

During a sacred meditation retreat, all the devotees gathered in the dining hall for a blessed meal. Amma, in her loving and nurturing way, personally served us and encouraged everyone to partake in more sweets. Despite our assurances that we were fully satisfied and found the food exceptionally delicious, she lovingly insisted, "You have only eaten a little. Please, have some more sweets." Out of genuine curiosity, we asked Akkayya, "Why does Amma feel we have eaten only a little when we are telling her we are full?" With devotion in our hearts and a playful spirit, we remarked, "Amma is just being kind," and shared a joyous laugh.

Many students participate in competitions but do not always emerge victorious, often feeling disheartened as a result. Similarly, numerous artists, such as singers, dancers, and athletes, face defeats and are comforted by Amma's compassionate words. Amma tells them, "It's okay. You have many talents. Next time, you will succeed". She encourages and praises them, saying, "You possess many talents". Even in instances where their talents may not initially seem evident, Amma's encouragement instills in them such extraordinary enthusiasm that they go on to achieve remarkable accomplishments. Witnessing this transformation firsthand, I was profoundly moved and inspired.

Many times, students from the Veda school and children from the tribal school would come to the ashram to play, their innocent mischief knowing no bounds. However, Amma always supported them, saying with a loving smile, “They are children, after all! Let them play.” She would send them snacks to enjoy, nurturing their joyous spirit. This is how she embraced their sweet mischief with boundless affection. Yet, this too, some say, is another example of Amma’s gentle exaggerations.

Once, a young girl came to Amma, deeply hurt and in tears because others had called her dark-complexioned. Amma said, “Oh, whoever said that is wrong. Look at me! I have a fair complexion, but I don’t look beautiful. You are blessed with the complexion of Shri Krishna and Shri Rama, which is your good fortune! I feel sad that you are crying over this, as I wish I had your beautiful complexion. This is Shri Vishnu’s complexion. To me, you are as beautiful as the full moon!” By calling her as beautiful as the full moon, Amma made her laugh wholeheartedly. In this way, Amma fills the hearts of sorrowful devotees with self-confidence, making them laugh and transforming their mood in an instant.

It is indescribable how, when any student wins a cup or medal, secures a scholarship, or triumphs in a singing competition or game, Amma lavishes them with the highest praise, regards them with immense admiration, and considers their achievements remarkable. She even sheds tears of joy for them, such is the depth of her love and pride.

Once, a young boy took Amma’s car and got into a terrible accident, rendering the car completely unusable. Overwhelmed with guilt and fear, he cried profusely and begged Amma for forgiveness. With boundless compassion, Amma gently consoled him, saying, “Do not feel bad. I am a million times happier that nothing happened to you. It is okay that we lost the car; what truly matters is your safety.” In this way, she comforted him, showing her profound love and concern for his well-being.

In our lives, we sometimes break very expensive things or unknowingly make many mistakes, but Amma never feels bad and ensures that the other person does not feel bad either. Amma has traveled to many countries and, regardless of age, she views everyone with the same tender care as she would a tiny baby. Whether someone is 25 or 80 years old, if they arrive tired after traveling, she immediately offers them a peeled fruit, urging them to eat and regain their strength. Amma’s perception transcends age; even those who are 80- or 90-years old stand before her like children, basking in her boundless motherly affection. Her ability to make everyone feel cherished and nurtured, regardless of their age, speaks to the profound spiritual love she embodies.

Our Divine Connection

Who else looks forward to seeing us with such boundless love and anticipation? It is our divine Karunamayi Amma. We should dedicate our lives to Amma, for she alone would willingly endure any hardship for our sake. Who else would bear suffering on our behalf with such grace? It is Amma Karunamayi who carries our burdens with infinite compassion. Who else thinks of us every moment, enveloping us in a constant embrace of divine love and care? Only our Amma.

Amma Karunamayi is the only one who thinks of us with such divine love and care. We earnestly pray that we may never distance ourselves from Amma. Amma doesn't live for herself; Amma lives for all of us. As Swami Vivekananda wisely stated, "Those who live for others are those who truly live." This profound truth is exemplified and embodied in our beloved Amma.

Finding Peace and Happiness

In today's world, we have access to all the material comforts—food, clothing, and transportation—yet we still lack peace of mind and true happiness. It is in the presence of our beloved Amma Karunamayi that we find these invaluable gifts. This sentiment has been echoed by hundreds and thousands of devotees, who attest to Amma's tireless dedication. Amma works ceaselessly, day and night, for the benefit and well-being of her children, all of us. While others may eventually retire, Amma Karunamayi remains ever devoted. For those who feel isolated or abandoned, Amma offers profound reassurance, saying, "Do not forget that I am never far from you. I am always here. Remember this always. Be strong and courageous." With these comforting words, our Divine Mother instills strength and courage in our hearts.

The Divine Force Behind Our Success

After conducting many significant programs, when people praise and extol the success of the events, Amma affectionately blesses us, saying that all the success is due to our efforts and that the credit belongs to us. Yet, Amma is the divine force and the guiding hand behind the scenes, orchestrating everything with her boundless grace. In her humility, Amma gently lies, attributing the achievements to us. However, we all know and feel deeply in our hearts that it is all due to Amma's divine grace.

Infinite Compassion and Love

While we may speak untruths at times, our revered Divine Mother, who has bestowed upon us life itself, never deceives our father, Arunachaleshwara. Amma graciously accepts all our words as truth, honoring our sincerity and embracing us with unwavering compassion and understanding.

Many people are aware of the profound connection we, the devotees, share with Amma Karunamayi. We are deeply cherished by Amma, much like petals from a blossoming flower of Amma's unconditional and pure love. We are the droplets of nectar that emanate from Amma's boundless and infinite motherly affection. With utmost devotion, we reflect on how we can express our gratitude and acknowledge our indebtedness for the infinite care and affection Amma has bestowed upon us.

Gratitude and Acceptance

Throughout our lives, we often experience dissatisfaction and distress, frequently contemplating, "This is insufficient," or "That is lacking." Amma has imparted to us the wisdom to, "Learn to live happily with whatever you have." There was a student who received a very low score. Amma extended her support and provided reassurance to his parents, explaining, "He was adjusting to a new syllabus and was unwell at the time. On the next occasion, he will achieve a commendable grade."

The Essence of Amma

Who can adequately articulate the essence of “Amma”? The term itself is akin to a poetic verse, rich with sweetness and profound meaning. Who can melodiously convey the beauty of “Amma”? It is a melody, sweeter than the most delightful affections.

Boundless Love and Compassion

Amma’s abundant love surpasses even the deepest motherly affection. Amma embodies boundless love. Amma represents enduring patience and unwavering tolerance, untiring in its essence. The concept of wonderful, divine, and loving friendship finds its embodiment in Amma. She is a rare and incomparable ocean of compassion. Amma’s form is uncommon and singular in its rarity.

Unique Relationship with Amma

Despite having numerous wonderful external relationships in this world, Arunachala has bestowed upon us a unique and profound relationship with Amma, enabling us to share our difficulties and desires with her. This is the extraordinary bond we all share with our revered Amma Karunamayi. Our Amma Karunamayi epitomizes dharma. When Amma Karunamayi approaches us, it is as if peace itself is advancing towards us. Amma Karunamayi’s heart is perpetually engaged in prayers for the welfare of humanity. Amma’s words encapsulate the essence of the Vedas. The intrinsic nature of our Amma Sri Karunamayi is both humanity and the supreme reality beyond truth.

The Four Teachings of Amma:

1. When you look into a mirror, you see only yourself. Amma teaches that through meditation, you come to see yourself in all of creation.
2. Silence purifies the mind. Meditation purifies the intellect. Forgiveness purifies life. Samadhi enables you to perceive yourself in everything, everywhere.
3. Do not bind yourself to a mere handful of impressions within your mind. These should not oppress you. Instead, through meditation, you can overcome these impressions and achieve your goal.
4. Always focus on the light; thus, the boundaries of darkness will not approach you. Speak very sparingly and devote more time to meditation. By practicing daily discipline, silence, and meditation, you will attain the wealth of imperishable and enduring Ananda, peace, and happiness. This Ananda is brahmananda.

One should not question why they alone face difficulties at every step. It is often the case that those who uphold dharma encounter the greatest challenges. These trials will relentlessly pursue you, depriving you of rest. However, it is ultimately dharma that will lead to victory. We offer our profound salutations and Atmanjali to our Divine Mother, who bestows upon us this sweet and nectarine jnanāmrutam (nectar of divine knowledge).

In a world where wealth abounds, it is disheartening that kindness is often scarce. What significance does such wealth hold if it does not alleviate the flood of adversities in this Kali Yuga era? Amma Sri Karunamayi, distinguished for her sincerity and genuine and unwavering compassion, akin to pure milk, has graced our world. Amidst widespread exploitation and manipulation, Amma stands apart by offering her unconditional support and empathy, shedding tears alongside us in times of dire need. Amma's maternal care, immeasurable, beyond comprehension, is solely and purely concerned with our well-being, and this is a profound blessing and boon showered down upon us. We depend on no one and expect nothing from anyone, guided by Amma's teachings to uphold dignity and self-assurance, fostering liberation from envy and bolstering self-esteem. Over the past 27 years, Amma has instilled profound wisdom, establishing a tranquil and auspicious foundation in our lives. Amma has sown the seeds of new, enlightened thoughts in our hearts and laid a foundation of peace and spiritual greatness in our lives.

It is our immense good fortune, accumulated over countless lifetimes, to be in the divine presence of Amma. Amma is the supreme mother, the embodiment of all maternal virtues. Amma is the Guru Mandala Rupini, the supreme and celestial form of the Guru among all Gurus. What can we possibly offer to such a divine Guru? Amma has descended from realms of light, traversing immeasurable distances, far beyond our comprehension, solely for our salvation. For this divine Amma, all we can do is wash Amma's sacred feet with tears of joy and profound gratitude. Our highest duty is to worship Amma with unwavering love and utmost devotion.

Let us immerse ourselves in the boundless ocean of infinite light, radiating more than a million rays. Come, one and all, and hasten to this sacred Guru Purnima festival in Chicago to receive the divine blessing of Amma's darshan, our divine birth mother through countless lifetimes. Amma's compassion is an ocean of divine celestial nectar. We are all Amma's prana, the very essence of life itself.

Note: This sacred passage from Akkayya's diary evokes profound reverence. We humbly offer our countless salutations to Akkayya, who resides in the divine realms above.

S.M.V.A, Chicago, USA